Think they should pay *Shraughe* and *Marte** to H. M. as they did to Desmond.

1589, Dec. 15.—Petition of Morish Shigane to the Lord Treasurer to take order for the relief of the Countess of Desmond, before Mr. Secretary Fenton departs.†

1589 (*Circiter*) Cal. 195.—Names of the 8 persons excepted out of the Act of Attainder of the E. of Desmond.

From Calendar Patent Roll, 1 *James I., part* 1, *page* 5.

LVIII. 17.—King's letter for grants of pensions of 50¹ each to the Lady Jane Fitzgerald, and to Ellen, and Elizabeth, her sisters,‡ all sisters of the late Earl of Desmond. 4 Sept. 1st.

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 1861.

REV. CHARLES GRAVES, D. D., President, in the Chair.

The REV. WM. REEVES, D. D., read a paper—

ON THE TOWNLAND DISTRIBUTION OF IRELAND.

THE civil distribution of Ireland, in the descending scale, is into Provinces, Counties, Baronies, Parishes, and Townlands; and under these successive grades of classification every acre of Ireland is accounted for in that noble compilation, the Census of 1851,—a work which, independently of its ostensible object, affords to the Irish topographer, next to the inestimable Ordnance Survey, the most valuable repertory of information in existence;§ and which would probably enjoy a higher literary character, had it been issued in a cover of any other colour than blue.

But this highly convenient distribution of the surface of Ireland is characterized neither by unity of design nor by chronological order in

---

* Referring to the "Topographer," by J. G. Nichols, F. S. A., Part 14, p 123:—
"1587. Names of Rentes, in Money, Victuals, and customes, which were due to the Earl of Desmond:—
        Shraughe, A yearlie rent in sterling money
        Marte   A yearlie rent of beef."

† Morishe Sheghan (as he himself signs) was attorney for the Earl of Desmond in giving livery and seisin of the Earl's estates, under the feofment of 1574; and on the Countess Kathrin surrendering her castle of Inchiquin, 1575, to the Earl, the latter feofft it to Morishe Shegan in trust.

‡ Daughters of the rebel, Gerott, 16th Earl.

§ The census of 1841 descended no lower than the parochial division. There were, however, thirty-four fasciculi published in 1844, at one shilling each, in which the enumeration returns of *Houses* and *Persons* were given under the head of the several townlands. This was the first printed recital of all the townlands of Ireland. The census of 1851 adopted the same minute classification, and further added the acreable contents of every townland.

its development. The provinces, subject to one suppression,* and some interchange of adjacent territories,† represent a very ancient native partition, which, in the twelfth century, was adopted for ecclesiastical purposes. The counties and baronies, though principally based on groupings of native lordships, are of Anglo-Norman origin, and range in the date of their creation from the reign of King John to that of James I. The parochial division is entirely borrowed from the Church, under which it was matured, probably about the middle of the twelfth century; while the townlands, the infima species, may reasonably be considered, at least in part, the earliest allotment in the scale.

According to Irish authorities‡ of respectable age, the progressive subdivisions under the *Coigeadh*, or Province, were: the *Tricha-ced*,§ or "Thirty-hundreds," sometimes simply, *Tricha*, "Thirty;" the *Baile-biataich*, or "Victuallers-town," sometimes simply *Baile*, or "Town;" and the *Seisreach*, or "Plowland." Each Tricha-ced contained 30 Bailebiatachs, each Bailebiatach 12 Seisreachs, and each Seisreach sixscore acres of native measure.‖ They represent the contents of the five provinces under these heads, as follows:—

	Tricha-ceds.	Baile-biataichs.	Seis-reachs.
Meath, . . .	18	540	6480
Connaught, . .	30	900	10800
Ulster, . . .	36	1080	12960
Leinster, . .	31	930	11160
Munster, . .	70	2100	25200
	185	5550	66600

The total amount of which, at 120 acres to the sheshragh, would be 7,992,000 acres for all Ireland. But this, though considerably less than half the actual extent of the country, is exclusive of wood, moor, and

---

* That of Meath, the limits of which were adopted for, and are still retained as, the boundary of the diocese of the same name.

† Louth formerly belonged to Ulster, and Clare to Connaught. Elyocarroll, which is now represented by two baronies in King's County, in the province of Leinster, was originally included in Munster.

‡ Keating does not inform us of the source whence he derived his third chapter, which treats of the divisions of Ireland. An Irish poem on the subject, ascribed to Fintan, the antediluvian, is printed with a translation in Mr. Curry's Battle of Magh-Leana, pp. 106-109. Ware cites, as his authority, the manuscript which contains the so-called Annals of Multifernan, written in 1274; and the Registry of Duisk. (Works, vol. ii. p. 30.) Dr. Lynch, in his Cambrensis Eversus, takes the poem of Fintanus Orfear as his authority, (p. 306).

§ *Tricha* is latinized "Treuca" by O'Sullivan and O'Flaherty. *Ced* is rendered "centuria" by the latter. Ogyg., p. 24. In the Annals of the Four Masters, An. 1176, is recorded the grant of a *baile-biataigh*, namely the baile of Tuaim-achadh. See O'Donovan's note; and Hardiman's note on the statute of Kilkenny (Tracts of the Irish Archæological Society), p. 5.

‖ One trichaced = 30 ballybetaghs = 360 sheshraghs = 43,200 acres.

mountain, which did not enter into the agricultural calculation. The sheshragh or plowland was ascertained by estimation, not measurement; and thus we can account for the great discrepancy between the estimated contents of a townland two centuries and a half ago and the present result of actual survey. I give an example from the county of Antrim. The parish of Ballyclug has three townlands, called the Cross, Crebilly, and Caherty. Of these, the first was returned in an inquisition of 1640, as containing 120 acres; now it measures 1529 acres, or more than twelve times the early amount. Crebilly was reckoned at 90; now it is 800. Caherty was 120; now it is 946.

To the tricha-ced, or cantred,* as it is sometimes rendered, we have now no corresponding division. It is sometimes, but incorrectly, identified with the barony, because occupying the second place in the scale; the fact that there are 325 baronies, according to the present arrangement, or 271 undivided, while the tricha-céds amounted but to 185, proves that they were different in their constitution. The ballybetagh is still more destitute of a modern equivalent,† except in some few cases where groups of twelve townlands under a generic title still constitute distinct properties. In fact, the seisreach, which is derived from *seisear*, " six," and *each*, " horse," and is understood to denote the extent of ground a six-horse plough would turn up in a year at so much per day,‡ is the division best represented in our present allotment. The number of seisreachs, or plowlands in Ireland, is stated to be 66,600; and it is a remarkable approximation to that sum, especially in such high figures, when the number of townlands as now defined, named, and laid down on the Ordnance Survey, is found to amount to 62,205. In the former case, the average acreable extent of the plowland would be 304·8, while in the latter it is about 326·4.§ But, in detail, the townlands exhibit great variety as to their contents. For example, Sheskin, in the parish of Kilcommon, barony of Erris, and county of Mayo, ‖

---

* Giraldus Cambrensis, when stating that the Isle of Man consisted of 343 villæ, or three cantreds, asserts that " Cantredus composito vocabulo tam Britannica quam Hibernica lingua, tanta terræ portio quanta 100 villas continere solet."—Itinerar. Cambr. ii. 7, (p. 867, ed Camden). Again, speaking of Wales as comprehended in 54 cantreds, he observes : "Cantredus id est cantref, a Cant, quod centum, et Tref, villa, composito vocabulo tam Britannica quam Hibernica lingua."—Cambriæ Descript. c. 4 (p. 884, *ib.*) According to this the Irish compound would be *ced-trebh*. In another place (Top. Hib. iii. 5) Giraldus Cambrensis states the *cantaredi* of all Ireland to be 176 (p. 737, *ib.*) We meet with the term very often in the Irish rolls of King John.

† The nearest approach to the estimated size of an ancient ballybetagh would be half an average parish. There are on the Ordnance Map 2422 several parishes laid down. In Ware's time they were in number 2293.

‡ O'Flaherty makes the *seisreach* the same as the *ceathramhadh*, or " quarter," and latinizes it " sesquiquadriga." Ogyg. p. 24.

§ In a very valuable paper, by Sir Thomas Larcom, prefixed to the Irish Relief Correspondence, in the Board of Works' Series (London, 1847), the number of townlands is stated at 66,700, and 330 the average amount of acres in each. It would seem that the learned compiler borrowed the old Irish computation of plowlands rather than computed the modern townlands, as there is only one hundred difference between his total and the old one.

‖ Ordnance Survey, Mayo, sheet 19.

which is the largest single denomination called a townland, in Ireland, contains 7012 acres; while Mill Tenement, a several denomination of like rank, in the parish of Ardclinis, county of Antrim,* does not exceed 1 acre, 1 rood, 1 perch. In mountainous districts, like the barony of Ballynahinch, in Galway, the Mourne Mountains, in Down, and some ranges in Donegal, we meet with single tracts called townlands, from five to six thousand acres in extent; then again, coming to the valleys in the same counties, we find patches in the shape of townlands of very small dimensions. There is in the parish of Kilclief, in the county of Down, a little townland of 4A. 3R. 2P., called Acre M'Cricket,† that is, Mac-Richard's Acre, which for ages formed a portion of the large Fitz Simon property, but in later times derived its severalty from its becoming, after successive subtractions, almost the sole residuum of the old family estate.‡

As regards the acreable average of townlands in the various counties, it is to be observed that it is not regulated by the general productiveness of the land.§ One might expect to find the highest average in wild mountainous counties like Mayo, Galway, and Donegal, and the lowest in level and fertile ones, like Meath and King's County. But it is not so. Down, which is a very fruitful county (though, no doubt, it owes a great deal to improvement created by industry since the denominational boundaries were fixed), has the maximum average, or 457 acres to the townland. After which come, successively, Donegal, 432; Kerry and King's County, 415; Antrim, 409; Londonderry, 408; Mayo, 382. The minimum average is Monaghan, which is only 172; then Fermanagh, 184; Dublin, 205; Cavan, 233.

This great difference between the extremes, 172 and 457, must have had its origin in the civil peculiarities of the districts, while in the possession of the original inhabitants. Monaghan and Fermanagh,‖ two contiguous counties which have the lowest average, thereby denoting the minutest subdivision, were found at the close of the sixteenth century to consist of a certain number of ballybetaghs, each of which contained 4 quarters, and each quarter 4 tates,—that is, in each ballybetagh 16 tates—a name peculiar to these two territories, the patrimonies respectively of Mac Mahon and Maguire. The tate was estimated at 60 acres native, and a sixteenth, instead of the more usual twelfth, was the unit; and this, continuing in local use, afterwards came to be stereotyped in these parts as a townland on the Ordnance Survey.

---

* Ordnance Survey, Antrim, sheet 25.
† Ordnance Survey, Down, sheet 31.
‡ The townland Isle M'Cricket, in the same parish, consists of but 8 acres and 37 perches.—Ord. Surv., Down, sheet 38.
§ Ware says that the quantity of a carucate or plowland is "greater or less, according to the nature or quality of the soil." Works, vol. ii., p. 31.
‖ The Surveys of the Counties of Monaghan and Fermanagh, made in 1591 and 1603, two very valuable documents, are printed in the introduction to the Ulster Inquisitions.

Cavan, which skirts them both on the south-west, succeeds them after one interval in the average scale; and its distribution was at the same period numerically similar, though under a different name. Its first division was the ballybet, identical with the ballybetagh of other parts; of this the proximate species was the poll or pole, sixteen of which constituted the ballybet. Each poll contained 2 gallons, each gallon, 2 pottles, descending even to a subdivision called pints. In most cases these fractional parts had peculiar names, some few of which may now exist in the townland nomenclature of the county; but the poll was practically the prevailing denomination, and to it, as the sixteenth, instead of the twelfth of a ballybetagh, we owe the numerical excess of townlands in this district.

In Down, on the other hand, the prevailing denomination was the ballyboe or " cow-land" sometimes called the carewe, from the Latin *carucata*, or plowland, which in the Bagenal Patent was estimated at threescore acres. Three of these formed the quarterland, and twelve the ballybetagh. Sometimes a smaller division was in use, called the sessiagh.* Thus O'Lavery's territory, comprising a principal part of the parishes of Magheralin and Moira, in this county, was found by inquisition to contain 13 sessiaghs.

In Antrim, the townland, latinized *villa* and *villata*, was the prevailing denomination at the commencement of the seventeenth century. The higher division was, as in Down, the quarterland, that is, the conventional quarter of the ancient ballybetagh. Here, as elsewhere, the original name of the quarterland was often lost, while the specific ones were retained; or the generic name was given in exchange to a principal component part.† Thus it often happened that out of a quarterland, with its four specific portions, each having its own boundaries and peculiar name, have grown five denominations of the same order. In Antrim we have still the traditional aggregation in the "four towns" of Carngraney, of Ahoghill, of Duneane, of Drummaul, of Ballyclug, of Inver, &c.; the "eight towns" of Muckamore (now increased by subdivision, on the Ordnance Map to ten), the "eight" of Glynn; the "twelve towns" of Balleny; the "sixteen towns" of Connor"; and the "sixteen towns" of Antrim, now increased to twenty-seven. On the other hand, what were formerly the "four towns" of Cranfield, in Upper Toome, have lost their severalty,‡ and now form the single townland of Cranfield, of 834 acres.

---

* Sessiagh is a different word from seisreach, but seems to convey the idea of sixth, though in reference to what standard it is difficult to say. As a measure it prevailed in Donegal, Tyrone, Armagh, and was considered the third of a ballyboe or plowland. As a townland name it occurs simply or in composition twenty-one times, and the average contents are 170 acres. In a stanza cited by the Four Masters, at 1031, we find the term *Seisedhach* in the sense of a ' measure.'—Ed. O'Donovan, p. 823.

† Thus, in Mayo, Criathrach was a generic tract containing three *bailes*, or 1440 Irish acres, while the modern townland Creragh, which represents it, consists of but 141 acres. See Dr. O'Donovan's judicious observations in his note on the Tribes and Customs of Hy Fiachrach, pp. 203, 204, 453.

‡ The names of the four sub-denominations are locally preserved. See Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Down and Connor, p. 87.

So also the "four towns" of Craigs, in the barony of Kilconway, are on the Ordnance Survey mapped as one townland of 2,800 acres, without any mark of subdivision; but the four names, Groogagh, Grannagh, Carhinney, and Aughnakeely, are locally remembered, although the boundaries cannot be exactly shown. The Ordnance Survey might advantageously have perpetuated the last name, as it belongs to a portion in which is an ancient cemetery, which Colgan notices as *Achadh-na-cille*.[*]

The divisions in Donegal were ballybetaghs, descending to quarters, ballyboes, and sessiaghs: of which the ballyboe,[†] with occasional sessiaghs, was the denomination which eventually merged in the general townland.

In Londonderry it was found by inquisition, about the year 1639, that there were four baronies, one of which, Terkerren, contained "14 ballybetaughes, making in the whole 182 ballyboes, or townlands";[‡] that is, 13 ballyboes to the ballybetagh. Ardmagilligan, in the barony of Keenaght, was returned as containing "40 towns or ballyboes."[§] On the Ordnance Map the same parish, now called Magilligan, has 43, which shows a very trifling numerical change in the last two centuries and a half.

In Armagh the prevailing denomination was the "ballyboe or town," which contained three sessiaghs. In 1623 the parish of Tawnaghtalee, now Ballymore or Tanderagee, was found to consist of 55 balliboes or townlands,[||] while on the Ordnance Survey it now contains but 48, showing, even after allowance made for some subtractions, that there has been since that date no further subdivision. Ballymoyer, the patrimonial parish of the Keeper of the Book of Armagh, has been for two centuries and a half reckoned as eight towns; and though some of the component names varied from time to time, yet the numerical character was always maintained, and to this day, both locally and on the Ordnance Survey, the "eight towns of Ballymyre" occupy their old position. Lorga Iwallane, returned as a sessiagh in 1609, is now the townland of Lurgyvallen, in the parish of Armagh, consisting of 184 statute acres. In several instances we meet with "proporcions" of ten ballyboes, in this county, which are estimated at 1000 acres, that is, 100 acres, with their appurtenances, to the ballyboe.

In Tyrone, as in Armagh, the ballyboe, or townland, was the prevailing denomination, and contained three "sheshawghes" or sessiaghs, which are jointly represented in the modern townland survey. It had, besides, a compound denomination called *tullagh*, consisting of a ballyboe and a sessiagh, that is, a townland and a third.

Travelling southwards into Leinster, we find a considerable change in the denominational terms. The popular division of Longford was the

---

[*] Trias Thaumaturga, p. 182 *a*, n. 195.
[†] There are twelve townlands called *Ballyboe*, in Donegal, and one called *Eleven Ballyboes*, containing only 408 acres. There is no other townland called Ballyboe in Ireland, except one in the parish of Templeetny, in South Tipperary.
[‡] Ulster Inquisitions Londonderry, No. 9 Car. I.
[§] Ibid. No. 5, Jac. I.
[||] Ulster Inquisitions, Armagh, No. 8, Jac. I.

cartron, which was estimated at from 60 to 160 acres. Four of these made a quarter or ploughland. The cartron is represented by the modern townland.

In Louth we find the carucate, or carew, of which 120, sometimes 60, acres were the prevailing contents.

Meath had the plowland, and under it the carucate and townland. In the direction of Cavan we find the poll.

Westmeath had the cartron and carucate. An inquisition of 1621 finds 3 carucates to consist of 360 acres, or 120 acres each. We also meet " a half-carucate, otherwise half-plowland."

The county of Dublin, influenced by the neighbourhood of the metropolis, was considerably subdivided. Thus, the parish of Lusk contains on the Ordnance Survey 81 townlands; an inquisition sped in 1546 finds but 59.* The prevailing denomination was the plowland or townland.

Kildare was similarly distributed.

Wicklow had villæ, villatæ, hamlets, lands, and cowlands, or ballyboes.

The divisions of Carlow were mart-lands or beef-lands, and fractional parts; also penny-lands.† The half and quarter martlands are now represented by the townlands.

Thus, too, in Wexford, besides quarters, carucates, and plowlands, we find an inquisition which sets out the barony of Ballaghkene as containing 13 marte-lands; Goorey, 20; M'Vadock's Country, 7; Skarawalsh, 31.‡

In Kilkenny, also, we meet with the carucate and martland. It had, besides, a denomination called capell-lands, three of which made a plowland; and a subdivision called a horse's-bed or horseman's-bed, containing 20 or 30 acres.§

King's County had the carucate and cartron. An inquisition of 1667 finds 1 plowland 80 acres, and two plowlands 8 score acres of arable land.

The English of Waterford reckoned by plowlands; the native Irish by mart-lands, and the sub-denomination horsemen's-beds.||

---

* An early transcript is preserved among records of St. Patrick's Cathedral. See Mason's History of St. Patrick's, p. 35. One of the denominations, now swallowed up in the adjuncts of Kenure Park was *Ballybetaughe.*

† In Scotland we meet with the denomination of *halfpenyland* in some ancient charters. The *mercata, solidata, denariata,* or " markland," " shilling-land," and " penny-land" were common terms of estimation.

‡ Leinster Inquis. Wexford, No 3, Jac. I.

§ In the Kilkenny Inquisitions we find " 4 caples terræ" (No. 9, Jac.I.) ; " 7 capal terræ" (No. 31, Jac. I.); " 5 caball terræ" (No. 40, Jac. I.), " horseman's-bed" (Nos. 33, 89. 91, 93, 96, Car. I.) " $\frac{1}{4}$ mart. terræ" (Nos. 25, 77, Car. I) ; " $\frac{3}{4}$ mart. terræ" (No. 80, Car. I.).

|| Many of the particulars regarding this and other counties of Munster are borrowed from an interesting MS. in the Lambeth Library on " The Sundry Denominations of the Measuringe of Land in Ireland." Carew Collection, No. 614, p. 197. It was copied in 1846 by Dr. O'Donovan, and was printed by Captain Larcom as an appendix to his valuable " Memorandum" on the Territorial Divisions of Ireland.

Tipperary had capell-lands, of about 400 acres English measure, each capell-land containing four quarter meeres.

Limerick reckoned by quarters, each divisible into four quarter meeres. It had also a sub-denomination called gnieve.*

In Cork, we find the plowland, latinized *carucata*, and the gnieve or gneeve, a sub-denomination.

In Kerry, the divisions were quarters and plowlands, as 1 to 3; each plowland estimated at 120 acres.

In Connaught the prevailing distribution was into townlands, of vague import; quarters, the fourth part of the former; cartron, the fourth of a quarter; gnieve, the sixth of quarter. The cartron was computed at 30 native acres.†

But, notwithstanding all the varieties of local usage, the "town" or "villa" was a term which was understood in all parts of Ireland; and 60 or 120 acres, with their appurtenances, were the prevailing allotments; so that the denomination of townland easily came into universal acceptation, and its average extent was fixed at the common rate.

If we suppose a widely diffused population to have existed in the island at an early date, which the thick interspersion of the earthen duns, raths, and lisses, authorizes us to do, we can easily understand how, among a people semi-pastoral, semi-agricultural, each occupation of land would acquire a severalty, and become defined by ascertained limits. Our idea of a primitive settler would be of one who obtained a tract of land, so circumstanced as to be clear in part, and have a fair supply of running water, near which a habitation might be erected; together with a proportion of mountain, wood, or bog, as the case might be. Should circumstances lead the neighbouring occupants to a community of abode, their several farms, while they retained their distinctive appellations, would naturally acquire a generic name, borrowed from their joint habitation.

An Irish memorandum in the Book of Armagh, written before the year 800, furnishes us with a sketch which may fairly be understood as representing the characteristics of a primitive townland—"Cummen and Brethan purchased Ochter n-Achid, with its appurtenances, both wood, and plain, and meadow, together with its habitation and its garden."‡ Ochter n-Achid signifies "upper-field," and is probably the place now known as Oughteragh,§ in the barony of Carrigallen, county of

---

* In Irish *Gniomh*, "a parcel of land," or twelfth of a plowland. There are twenty-one townlands of the name, chiefly in Munster. One of them, *Two Gneeves*, in Castlemagner, East Cork, contains only 71½ acres; another, called *Three Gneeves*, in Kilmacabea, West Cork, contains 179 acres.

† An account of the divisions of land, principally in reference to Connaught, written by the Rev. John Keogh, is preserved in a MS. of Trinity College, Dublin (MSS. I. 1. 2. p. 159), and has been printed by Dr. O'Donovan in the Appendix to his Tribes and Customs of Hy-Fiachrach, p. 453.

‡ *Dirróggel Cummen acas Brethán Ochter nachid conaseilb iter fid acas mag acas lenu conallius acas allubgort.*—fol. 17 *ba.* See Petrie's Tara, in Transact. R. I. A., vol. xviii., pt. 2, p. 195; Stokes, Irish Glosses, p. 81, No. 580.

§ The Calendars of Marian Gorman and O'Clery commemorate "Fiadhabhair of Uachtar Achaidh in Cenel Luachain," at July 7th.

Leitrim. Another passage* in the same collection makes mention of a grant of land to St. Patrick or the see of Armagh, in Drum-lias, now the parish of Drumlease, in the county of Leitrim, in which the boundaries are most circumstantially recited, and indicate a well-ascertained and accurately-named territorial demarcation at so early a date, and in a region which to this day is wild, and thinly peopled.

Three centuries later, we find the community of Kells granting for the support of pilgrims a tract in Leyny called Ardcamma, consisting of the sub-denominations "Baile O'Heerin, with its mill and land, and Baile O'Cowgan, with its land and mill."†

The earliest record, however, which enables us to form a comparative estimate of the ancient subdivisions of land in Ireland, is King Maurice MacLoughlin's charter to Newry, about the year 1158. In this record twenty denominations of land are recited by name.‡ During the period which elapsed between that date and the reign of Edward VI., either considerable additions were made to the original grant, or these twenty denominations had been subdivided; for in an inquisition of 1549 we find the possessions of the abbey described as consisting of 47 carrucates at the time of dissolution. But during the last three centuries little or no change seems to have taken place in the numerical arrangement; for the townlands which now constitute the parish and barony of Newry are exactly 47 in number.

Other charters of the twelfth century have recitals which might afford an interesting comparison with the present equivalents. That of St. Mary's Abbey of Monasteranenagh, of the year 1200, sets out the names of a hundred denominations.§ All the old monasteries presented in their post-dissolution inquisitions a much fuller list of lands than in their foundation charters, partly owing to accessional endowment, but principally to the subdivision of their possessions.

In districts where the English settled, the process of disintegration was carried on according as property became subdivided. Thus, in the parish of Swords, county of Dublin, out of 46 townlands, 35 have English names, some of which derived their origin from foreign settlers in the

---

* Book of Armagh, fol. 17 *ab*.

† The record, of a date between 1128 and 1140, is entered in the Book of Kells. See Miscellany of the Irish Archæol. Society, p. 128; Ordnance Memoir of Templemore, p. 210.

‡ They are given, together with their identifications as far as ascertainable, in the Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Down and Connor, p. 117.

§ King John's confirmation charter to the Cistercian house of S. Mary of Magio was unknown to Archdall. It is a very valuable topographical record, and is printed from the original in the Tower of London, by T. Duffus Hardy, in his "Rotuli Chartarum in Turri Londinensi asservati" (London, 1837), p. 78 *a*. The site was anciently called Aenach Cairbre, or Aenach Beg; hence, prefixing the words Mainister-an, and dropping the second term, it became Mainister-an-Aenaigh; from the latter half of which another name, Nenay or Nenagh, was formed. It took the name *Magio* from that part of the Maigh or Maigue, now called the Camoge, upon which the monastery is situate, though the former name is now confined to the main river into which the Camoge flows.

twelfth and thirteenth centuries. "Hugh de Belynges" was a juror there in 1265,* and we find a *Belinstown;* "Petrus Salsarius," at same date, and we have *Saucerstown;* "Thomas Roussell," and *Rowlestown;* "John Walensis," and *Walshestown;* "Roger de Mora," and *Moortown;* "Michael Forestare," and *Fosterstown.*

Among the 81 townlands of Lusk† are two whose names indicate their creation. *The Regles,*‡ of 230 acres, lying next Lusk village, on the west, derived its name from a convent of Aroasian Nuns which existed there, and of which this was the farm. It signifies "The Abbey Church;" and the tract so called was probably a slice of the large townland of Lusk, which was appropriated to the nunnery at its foundation, and distinguished by its name. This house was dissolved in 1190, *ergo* this townland was defined and named before that date. *Grace Dieu,* a house of Augustinian nuns, was founded, on the suppression of the former, in 1190; and the townland, which still bears this name, dates its designation, and probably its severalty, from a period subsequent to the year just mentioned. By a similar mode of treating townland names, the ages when they came into existence might be easily determined, and especially in those parts of the Pale where English names both Christian and family, with the word *town* suffixed, prevail so generally. As an example—In the parish of Lusk, near the Railway Station, are two contiguous townlands, called Rogerstown and Whitestown. The former is named in early records "Villa Rogeri," and evidently denotes the settlement of an Anglo-Norman adventurer. The latter is a corruption of Knightstown, and is Latinized "Villa Militis," also savouring of a military occupation. Here are the ruins of a chapel and a cemetery, beside which is St. Maurus' Well, where, on the 15th of January, there was wont to be an annual commemoration of the patron saint, for whom "our ancestors," as Alban Butler observes, "had a particular veneration under the Norman kings." Thus all the circumstances of the places just mentioned point for their history to the period immediately consequent on the English invasion.

Of the subdivision of townlands in populous and fruitful districts, we have, as an example, among many, the Marquis of Hertford's estate in the county of Antrim, being the principal part of the ancient Killultagh. In the Conway Patent§ the denominations recited are 52 in num-

---

* Registrum Alani, fol. 67 *a.*

† Of these 81 townlands, 29 only have Irish names. A prevailing form, both here and through the Pale, is a compound of a christian-name or surname with *town* suffixed, as Palmerstown, Parnelstown, Hacketstown, Thomastown.

‡ It is interesting to observe the traditional retention of the definite article with Irish names in places where the language has long ceased to be understood, and where the peculiarity is not recorded even on the map : thus we have The Naul, The Eglish, The Grallagh ; which are very correct forms, denoting *The Cliff, The Church, The Clay,* although the people using them do not know the reason of the usage. Thus, also, in past times, we had The Newry, and The Naas, denoting respectively *The Yew* and *The Fairgreen.*

§ Patent Rolls of James I., p. 146 *a.* See also the great Hamilton patent, *ib.,* p. 73 *b.*

ber ; while at present the same estate, which has continued unaltered for more than two centuries, and embraces in a ring fence the whole barony of Upper Massereene, with small adjacent portions of Upper Belfast and Castlereagh, contains about 150 townlands on the Ordnance Survey, the numerical increase being caused in part by the creation of new denominations as farms, with English names, but principally by calling up to the townland grade several of the subordinate divisions.

As regards the denominational terms which have been in use, I may observe that they differ greatly in their age and origin. The earliest which I have met is that of *coiced*, in the Book of Armagh, and therefore anterior to the year 800. It is Latinized in the same record by *quinta pars*, and is applied, in conjunction with the owner's name, to a portion of Drumlease parish.* The use of the term in later times† has been to denote a " province," and has given rise to the notion that it had its origin in this sense from the quinquepartite division of Ireland;‡ but, like our English " quarter," so wide and irrespective of proportion in its application, it seems to have its origin in some more general principle.§

The *Tricha-ced*, or " thirty hundreds" savours of foreign extraction, and seems to have its origin in the Saxon *hundred*.

The *Ballybetagh*, 30 of which made a tricha-ced, was, therefore, equal to one *céd*. There is a townland of this name, consisting of 464 acres, in the parish of Kilternan, in the county of Dublin.

The *Ballybo*, or " cowland" appears analogous in meaning to the Latin *bovata*, or Saxon *oxgang*.

Cartron,‖ which prevailed in Longford, Westmeath, King's County, and other parts, is an imported word, for which, in the sense of quarter, *ceathramhadh* (pronounced *carrow*) is the Irish term.¶ Cartron is derived, through the French, *quarteron*, from the Mediæval Latin, *quarteronus* or *quartrona*, and was probably brought in after the invasion.

Carucate is also of foreign extraction, being derived from *caruca*, "a chariot," which, in mediæval Latin, denoted a plough, and passed into the French *charrué*, from which was also borrowed in Ireland the form

---

* Caichan was the possessor, and his portion was called *coiced Caichain* and *quinta pars Caichain*. Book of Armagh, fol. 17 *a b*. Zeuss also has *Coiced*, Gram. Celt., vol. i., p. 317.

† The modern form for " fifth" is *cuigeadh*.

‡ " Provinciarum quæque ob quinquepartitam, divisionem Cóיᴣeαᵭ .ı. Quintana ad hunc usque diem appellatur."—Ogygia, p. 24.

§ Ducange observes that *Quintana*, locally called *quinnon*, is used in Spanish charters in the sense of " villa" or " prædium." *Quinteria* is a farm from which the tenant paid a fifth of the fruits annually to the lord.

‖ Cartron was extensively naturalized in Ireland. There are 80 townlands, chiefly in Connaught, called *Cartron*. There are 60 more, spreading into Longford and Westmeath, in whose names *Cartron* is compounded with some Irish term.

¶ *Ceathramhadh* or *Carrow* is a very prevalent term. There are 640 townland names into which the word enters.

carewe, and *carue* ;* hence it commonly denoted a plough-land.† In an English charter of Richard I.‡ a *carrucata* is declared to consist of 60 acres.

The *Tate* or *Tath*§ of Fermanagh and Monaghan, together with the *Poll*, the *Gallon*, the *Pottle*, and the *Pint* of Cavan, are all English terms, introduced by some unknown influence. To find names of liquid measure applied to land is strange ; and still more so when it is remembered that they are English, and in such an un-English quarter as East Breffny. They had all become naturalized long before 1600; for we find, soon after that date, townland names into which these words enter in combination with Irish terms of qualification, as Tattenheglish, Tattenamona, Tattincaha, Tattinderry, Tattyboy, Tattybrack, Tattyreagh, &c.‖ So, also, Pottlebane, Pottleboy, Pottleduff, Pottlereagh; denoting White, Yellow, Black, and Mottled Pottle. These last names occur in Cavan, where we find also Gallonboy, "Yellow Gallon"; Gallonreagh, "Mottled Gallon"; Gallonnambraher, "the Friar's Gallon."

But the most interesting word connected with topical nomenclature is *Bally*. As an existing element it is the most prevalent of all local terms in Ireland, there being 6400 townlands, or above a tenth of the sum total, into whose names this word enters as an element. And this is a much smaller proportion than existed at the beginning of the seventeenth century, when there was a tendency, at least in some of the northern counties, to prefix *Bally* to almost every name whose meaning would admit of it.

Baile, in Irish, is supposed by some to be akin to the Latin *ballium* and *villa*,** by the latter of which it is generally translated in inquisitions. Philologists, however, hesitate to admit the connexion, on the ground that the Irish word possesses only a single *l*;†† and the earliest

---

* Spelman observes on the term :—" *Carua* seu potius *carucata terræ*, est ea portio quæ ad unius aratri operam designatur, A PLOUGHLAND ; Matheo Paris *hida*. Exoletæ jam penè inter nostrates sunt hæ voces: florent autem apud Hibernicos (saltem mihi notiores) occiduos. Connaciam enim in Comitatus, hos in Baronias, easdemque in *carucatas* dispescunt: plus minus, 120 acras continentes."—Glossar. voc. *Carua*. Ware is correct in identifying it with the *Carve ;* but he should have written the word *Carue*.—Works, vol. ii., p. 226.

† O'Flaherty errs in connecting *carucata* with ᴄᴇᴀᴛʀᴀᵯᴀᴆ, as a division " quæ ex nominis notione est quarta pars pagi."—Ogyg., p. 24. There is nothing of a numerical allusion in the word carucata.

‡ Dugdale, Monast. Angl. vol. ii. p. 107.

§ There was a division in England called a *tothland*. In Norfolk and Suffolk also there was a custom called *tath*.

‖ The compounds of *Tate* or *Tatty* occur only in the counties of Fermanagh, Monaghan, and Tyrone, with the exception of one in Armagh, and a few in Louth.

¶ In the Ulster Inquisitions the counties of Antrim, Armagh, and Down, epecially the last, show by their indices the great prevalence of the word.

** See the Ordnance Memoir of Templemore, p. 210.

†† Luguballia (which with the prefix *caer* became softened down into the form Carlisle), if the latter member of the name be Celtic, affords an instance of a British form of *baile* with the double *l*.

recorded examples of it exhibit a meaning which favours their objection. In a contemporary marginal note in the Book of Armagh,* *baile* is used to denote "place"; and next, in the Book of Lecan, it is glossed in the same meaning, by the word *inad*.† It occurs, also, in the Tripartite Life of St. Patrick,‡ but probably in a sense approaching to the more modern use. Meanwhile we have, unfortunately, no certain instance, at an early date, of a proper name, into the composition of which this term enters.§

Names compounded with *baile* prevail extensively in Scotland, as well as Ireland. In the latter the word is generally written and sounded *bally*, but in some districts, principally the Dano-English territory of Fingal, in the county of Dublin, it is contracted to *bal*, as Balgriffin, Balheary, Baldungan, Balcunnin, Balrothery, Balbriggan, &c. In Scotland the same variety exists.|| In the west, that is, Argyll, part of Inverness, and Rosshire, we find examples, at every step, of *ballys*; but proceeding towards the east and north-east side, *bal* is the corresponding form; and as this region is the Pictland of olden times, it may be that the Pictish language, which, with good reason, is referred to the British family of the Celtic, predisposed the tongue to despatch the word with that brevity which the genius of the British language encouraged. If such was the case, this peculiarity must have arisen many ages ago; for the vernacular language of Pictland has been, as far back as the memory of man can reach, the ordinary Gaelic of Scotland.

In Ireland, *baile* was a term of frequent occurrence in composition at the close of the twelfth century. We have already noticed the denomination Ardcamma, which, in a charter of Kells, was declared to consist of Balle Ui Uidrin and Baile Ui Comgain. In the monastic Charters, at a later period, in this century, we find abundant examples of it, as appears by the following list :—

In MacLoughlin's charter to Newry, among 20 denominations, one *bale*—namely, Balenatin.¶

---

* *Is báile inso sis as incertus*, 'there is a place here below that is doubtful,' fol. 11 *ab*. See Stokes's Glosses, p. 156.

† Book of Lecan, fol. 164 *ba*, cited in Ordnance Memoir of Templemore, p. 210.

‡ See Stokes's Irish Glosses, p. 48, n. 110.

§ In Alcuin's letter to Colcu (A. D. 794), we meet with "et ad Australes fratres *Baldhunincga*," which name Colgan supposed to be a compound of Baile, and Chuinnigh, or Cainnech, so as to represent Bailechuinnigh or Cillchainnich, that is, Kilkenny. (Acta Sanctor., p. 380 *b*, n. 17); and, after him, Dr. Lanigan proposed *Baile-Dunsginne* or Lismore. (Eccl. Hist., vol. iii., p. 232, n. 45.) But their conjectures are untenable. Colgu was surnamed *Ua Duinechda*, and to this there seems to be some similarity in the latter clause of the name. See Ussher's Sylloge, Ep. 18 (Wks. vol. iv. p. 467).

|| Aberdeen, a long list of *bals*, but no *bally*; Argyll, numerous *balles*, only 5 *bals*; Ayr, the *bals* predominate; Dumbarton, *bal* principally; Elgin, *bal*; Fife, *bal*; Forfar, *bal* numerously; Inverness, *bal* and *ballie*; Kincardine, *bal*; Kirkcudbright, *bal*; Perth, *bal* and *balli*; Ross and Cromarty, *balli* and *bal*; Stirling, *bal*; Wigton, *bal*.

¶ Monast. Anglican. vol. ii. p. 1031 *a*; Eccles. Antiqq. of Down and Connor, p. 117

In Dermod MacMurragh's charter to Ferns, among 15 denominations, 6 beginning with *Bali.**

Jerpoint charter, in 34 denominations, 7 *Baley*-s.†

Holycross charter, in 11 denominations, 6 *Balli*-s.‡

Connal charter, in 15 denominations, 3 *Bale*-s.§

In St. Mary's, of Dublin, among 31 denominations, 8 *Balli*-s.‖

In St. Mary's of Nenay, among 100 denominations, 21 *Bali*-s.**

At this date, however, and for many centuries after, the word was applied only to large and generic tracts, and thus in some degree answered to the theoretical idea of a ballybetagh, which was sometimes simply called *baile*, and applied to an aggregation of lands. Thus, so late as the close of the sixteenth century, in the survey of Monaghan,†† each of the four baronies or hundreds consists of a number of ballybetaghs, varying from fourteen to twenty-one, the names of which invariably begin with *Bally*; while under each ballybetagh are recited the names of 16 tates, no one of which bears this generic prefix.

Entertaining the belief that the present townland names of Ireland not only preserve a great many ancient forms, but afford very interesting materials for philological deductions, both as regards the distribution of certain words, and the local varieties of the same word, feeling also the want of some comprehensive book of reference in the important work of the identification of ancient names, I undertook, in 1853, to compile an alphabetical index to all the townland names of Ireland, which I found to exceed sixty-two thousand in number. After a considerable amount of mechanical labour, I succeeded, in 1857, in producing the desired catalogue, in the form of these two large volumes, which I have now the honour to exhibit to the meeting. The plan I adopted was, to divide the page into five columns, the first of which gave the townland; the second, in the same line, the parish; the third, the barony; the fourth, the county; and the fifth, open for the etymology, where attainable. I should have been glad to have given the acreable extent of each; but the Addenda to the Census of 1841, from which I made my compilation, did not supply the desired information. It was my intention to have presented these books to the Academy as a work of public reference in topographical inquiry; but I lately learned that a similar index, containing all my items, and further supplying the areas, with a reference under each name to the sheet or sheets where it appeared on the Ordnance Survey, had been compiled from the Census of 1851, to which it was designed to serve as an alphabetical reference, and that it was likely, within a short time, to be published, and, of course, find its way to our library. It appeared to me, therefore, that it would be of no advantage to occupy a place in our shelves with an inferior production. It has, for

---

* Monast. Anglican., vol. ii., p. 1040 *b*.   † *Ib.* p. 1028.
‡ *Ib.* p. 1035 *b*.   § *Ib.* p. 1037 *b*.
‖ Rotul. Chartarum in Turri Londinensi asservati, ed. T. D. Hardy, p. 77 *b*.
** Ibid, p. 78 *a*.
+† Prefixed to the Ulster Inquisitions, p. xxi.

several years, however, done good service, not only to the compiler, but some of his literary friends, who, in their difficulties, sought counsel of the "monster Index." The printed Index will form an invaluable book of reference, and I hope that its appearance will promote investigations into the interesting topography of our island : certainly the Census list of 1851, with its admirable details, and this Index to follow it, will prove a rich treasury of topographical illustration ; and ere long I hope to see the series on our shelves divested of their blue wrappers, and recommended to notice by a becoming exterior. It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of such a work as this to the topographer. Not only is he enabled hereby to trace to its proper position the site of an ancient church, or the field of a distant encounter, or the subject of an early grant, but he has also materials for the correction of etymological fallacies, and the establishment of a true standard of interpretation.

I may adduce one or two examples.

The celebrated hill of Tara, in the county of Meath, is called in Irish *Temhair*, from the genitive of which, *Temhrach*, the common appellation obtains its form. Now, the old bardic etymologists derive the name from *Tea-mur*, "the wall" or "house of Tea," a celebrated female of olden time. A suggestion, however, is thrown out by Cormac, in his glossary, that the name may be allied to the Greek θεωρέω, inasmuch as *temhair* is used to denote an elevated place—the "temhuir of the country" being a hill, and the "temhuir of a house" being an upper chamber.[*] If, then, it obtained the name in consequence of having been the palace of a certain queen, we would naturally expect that it should be the only place in Ireland bearing this peculiar designation; but on looking to our Index we find, under the head *Tara*,[†] the following examples of its occurrence :—

Townland.	Parish.	Barony.	County.
1. TARA,	Durrow,	Ballycowan,	King's County.
2. TARA,	Slanes,	Ards,	Down.
3. TARA-HILL,	Kilcavan,	Ballaghkeen,	Wexford.
4. TARA-HILL,	Kiltennell,	Ballaghkeen,	Wexford.

In numbers 2 and 3 of this list there are earthen forts, whose situation is high and commanding, and such as fully answers to Cormac's interpretation.

Again, according to the old Register of the diocese, the name Clogher was said to be derived from *Cloch-oir*, a "Golden Stone, from which, in the times of Paganism, the Devil used to pronounce Jugling Answers."[‡]

---

[*] See Dr. Petrie's Essay on Tara, in the Transactions, vol. xviii. pt. 2, pp. 131, 154.

[†] To these may be added *Temoria Singite*, in Westmeath (Colgan, Trias Th. p.131 *a*); and *Teamhair-Brogha-Niadh* (in Leinster, Ogyg. pp. 269, 273, 283), an eastern limit of Connacht (Keating Hist. chap. 2) ; and *Teamhair Luachra*, in Kerry (Book of Rights, p. 90) ; *Beal-atha-na-Teamhrach* (Four Mast.1580), now the townland Bellahantouragh, in the parish of Ballincuslane, in barony of Trughanacmy, county of Kerry.

[‡] Harris's Ware's Works, vol. i., p. 175.

To such an etymon it is rather damaging to turn to the Index, and find 40 townlands called Clogher scattered all over Ireland, and 35 more having the same word in composition.

In like manner *Caisel*, or Cashel, the royal residence of Munster, is derived by Keating from *Cios-ail*, "tribute-rock," as being the depository of the provincial revenues. This etymon, so opposed to analogy and sense, is utterly refuted, when the Townland Index shows 90 instances of the word in various parts of the kingdom.

The Irish ᴄαṁnaċ, signifying "a field," is omitted in O'Reilly's Dictionary, yet the Index gives a hundred instances of the word, either simply or in combination.*

The British word *aber* is only found in the east and north-west of Scotland, but does not occur in Argyle or proper Irish region, and we would expect that this was indicative of its absence from Ireland. And such is found to be the case, at least as regards townland names—*inver* in use, but its equivalent *aber* not found.†

A note on the name *Seanchus Mor*, in one of the Brehon-Law manuscripts observes that, though the term *mor*, or "great," formed part of this title, it was not distinctive, and that there was no correlative in the form *Seanchus Beg;* instancing, as an illustration, the fact, that, though there were many places in Ireland called *Domhnach Mor*, there were none called *Domhnach Beg*.‡ Such an assertion is worth testing. Accordingly, the Index gives:—

Townland.	Parish.	Barony.	County.
1. DONAGHMORE,	Cloonclare,	Drumahaire,	Leitrim.
2. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Ballaghkeen,	Wexford.
3. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Clandonagh,	Queen's County.
4. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Dungannon,	Tyrone.
5. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Fassadinin,	Kilkenny.
6. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Ibane,	Cork, West.
7. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Iffa & Offa, E.,	Tipperary, S.
8. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Navan, L.,	Meath.
9. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Raphoe,	Donegal.
10. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Ratoath,	Meath.
11. DONAGHMORE,	Donaghmore,	Talbotstown, U.	Wicklow.

---

* The church of *Tamnach* is mentioned as early as the Book of Armagh (fol. 15 *aa*). It is now Tawnagh, in the barony Tierrill, county of Sligo.

† In the neighbourhood of Ballyshannon, the Donegal Inquisitions of the seventeenth century give us the word *ebber* in the sense of a "gut" or "channel;" and in an Inquisition, No. 10, Jac. I., we find *Abbernacapple;* 18 Car. I., *Abbirnellane;* 30 Car. I., *Abbermun;* and, what is startlingly like the Aberdour of Aberdeen and Fife, in Scotland, *Abberdoury* (No. 10, Jac. I.)

‡ "It is not because there was a [Senchus] Bec in existence [from which to contradistinguish it], but on account of the great number of the men of Erin who were at the making of it, and at the arranging of it. As every place where Patrick used to remain on Sunday is called *Domnach mor*, that is, from the number of the hosts who used to be about him, and used to give him great gifts. *Domnach beg* does not at all occur."— MS. Translated from H. 3, 18, Trin. Coll. Dubl., p. 359 *b*.

Townland.	Parish.	Barony.	County.
12. Donaghmore,	Donaghmore,	Salt, North,	Kildare.
13. Donaghmore,	Rathdowney,	Clandonagh,	Queen's County.
14. Donaghmore,	St. Patrick's,	Shillelogher,	Kilkenny.
15. Donoughmore,	Dunbin,	Dundalk, Up.	Louth.
16. Donoughmore,	Fertagh,	Galmoy,	Kilkenny.
17. Dunnamore,	Kildress,	Dungannon,	Tyrone.*

One, and only one *Donaghbeg* appears, namely, in the parish of Cloon-clare, county of Leitrim;† but this is not an exception to the rule, in-asmuch as it is only a portion or sub-denomination of Donaghmore, in the same parish, given in comparatively modern times, when the original usage of the word Donagh, that is *Dominica,* was forgotten.

Pistil is a British adoption of the Latin "fistula,"‡ and is applied to a pipe, or channel, or stream; borrowed from it, we have Glaspistol, in the parish of Clogher, county of Louth, and Cloghpistole, in the parish of Newtownlennan, county of Tipperary.

We find the compound name Drumshanbo applied to a townland in the parish of Cloone, barony of Mohill, county of Leitrim, and to ano-ther in the parish of Kiltoghert, in the barony of Leitrim, and same county; as also to another in Kildress parish, county of Tyrone. And this name is interpreted "the ridge" or "back of the old cow,"—a desig-nation taken from the peculiar outline of the rising ground, on the same principle that Cynoscephalæ, or "Dogs'-Heads," was given to certain eminences in Thessaly; or Gamala to a ridge in Palestine, because, as Josephus says, its profile resembled the hunch on a camel's back.§

In various counties we have the name Corran, which is the Irish for a reaping-hook, applied to townlands, in reference to some local pecu-liarity; but nowhere more remarkably than in the Corran of Larne, whose sickle-shaped configuration on the map justifies the name, and brings up to mind the various *Drepana* of Grecian antiquity.

Endless are the curious applications and combinations of Irish words which such an Index presents to view. What a boon to Irish topography would the forthcoming compilation be, if it had but one column more, namely, an etymological one. There is no member of society, from the

---

* To the above may be added the parish of Donaghmore, barony of Upper Iveagh, county of Down, where the townland Glebe, on which the church stands, was formerly known as Donaghmore; also the parish of Donaghmore, in Muskerry East, county of Cork, East; and the parish of Donaghmore, barony of Clanwilliam, county of Limerick. These, with the instances given above, amount to twenty; and by the absence of a corre-sponding *Donaghbeg,* show that the *mor* in their composition is an absolute, not a relative term.

† Situate a little to the east of Manorhamilton.—Ordnance Survey, sheet 11, N. E. angle.

‡ Fons, "quem *Pistyll Dewi,* fistulam David vocant." Girald. Cambrens. Itin. Cambr. ii. 1 (p. 858, ed. Camden). " Rivulus Sancti Cadoci, qui Brittannice *Pistill Cattuc* ap-pellatur." Vit. S. Cadoci, c. 24, Rees, Cambro-British Saints, p. 71.

§ Jewish War, iv. 1, 1.

great landed proprietor down to the humblest antiquarian student, who would not welcome with delight the appearance of such a work. In some words considerable difficulty would attend the interpretation; but the majority could be surely ascertained and safely expounded; for it would be found that certain prevailing elements of composition pervaded the names to a great extent; in which, as has already been observed, *Bally* is so frequent; *Kill*, the first syllable of 2890 names, representing, according to the combination, either *Cill*, 'cella,' 'church,' or *Caille*, 'sylva,' 'a wood;' *Drum*, 'dorsum,' 'a ridge,' introduces 2000 names; *Knock*, a 'hill,' 1600; *Lis*, 'an enclosed abode,' now called 'a fort,' 1380; *Derry*, 'an oak wood,' 1310; *Cluain*, 'a meadow,' 756, in the form *Clon*, and 924 in that of *Cloon*. The etymologicon, however, to be complete, would require a careful comparison of the old forms of the townland names, as found in Inquisitions, Patents, and kindred records, which were much purer than those now in use, as approaching nearer to the fountain head, and as current at a time when the Irish language was comparatively uninfluenced by foreign influence or intermixture.

TABLE *showing the number of Townlands and the average Contents in each County.*

	Townlands.	Average of Acres.		Townlands.	Average of Acres.
Carlow, ...	597	370	Clare, ...	2255	340
Dublin, ...	1081	206	Cork, East, . . .	3175	324
Kildare, ...	1240	337	Cork, West, . . .	2423	333
Kilkenny, ...	1602	316	Kerry, ...	2793	415
King's County, . .	1186	415	Limerick, ...	2162	305
Longford, ...	930	277	Tipperary, North, .	1651	310
Louth, ...	672	299	Tipperary, South, .	1603	334
Meath, ...	1631	354	Waterford, ...	1667	273
Queen's County, .	1154	368			
Westmeath, . . .	1381	314	MUNSTER, . .	17,729	334
Wexford, ...	2386	240			
Wicklow, ...	1374	363			
			Antrim, ...	1733	409
LEINSTER, . .	15,234	316	Armagh, ...	962	324
			Cavan, ...	1995	233
			Donegal, ...	2745	432
Galway, ...	4593	326	Down, ...	1335	457
Leitrim, ...	1509	249	Fermanagh, . . .	2262	184
Mayo, ...	3458	382	Londonderry, . .	1248	408
Roscommon, . . .	2053	284	Monaghan, . . .	1853	172
Sligo, ...	1336	336	Tyrone, ...	2160	360
CONNAUGHT, . .	12,949	326	ULSTER, . .	16,293	325